

Genus BASSARICYON.

External form like that of *Cercoleptes*, but with non-prebensile tail. Nose grooved anteriorly. Mammæ 2. Sole of feet naked. Premolars 4; molars 2; both tri-tuberculate in upper jaw; in lower jaw 2 molars with 4 tubercles. Vertebral formula: C. 7, D. 13, L. 7, S. 3, Ca. 15+? Nine ribs join the sternum. Clavicle entirely absent. In skull, palate much produced behind last molars, coronoid process of mandible long and backwardly hooked, angular process slight.

2. On a new Serow from the Malay Peninsula. By A. L. BUTLER, F.Z.S., Curator, Selangor State Museum.

[Received June 19, 1900.]

It has hitherto been supposed that the Serow which occurs in the Malay Peninsula is identical with *Nemorhædus sumatrensis* (Shaw). No skin from this region, however, has ever been sent to Europe, and on examining two specimens recently obtained on the Larut Hills, Perak, I am convinced that they belong to a species as yet undescribed.

From the following description it will be seen that the Malayan Serow differs conspicuously from *Nemorhædus sumatrensis* in its jet-black legs, the limbs in that species being always tan or rufous. This uniformity of colouring on body and limbs alone gives the animal an entirely different appearance from the Burmese Serow.

Nor does it agree in any way, as might perhaps have been expected, with Blyth's *N. rubidus* from Arakan. Blyth described the Arakan species (Cat. Mamm. Mus. As. Soc. 1863, p. 174), from a stuffed head, an adult skin and one of a kid, as being "of a red-brown colour with black dorsal list; the hair shorter than of the others." The Malayan animal is mostly black, the under-colour on the back is greyish white; the hair is not shorter than in *N. sumatrensis*.

Description of a female specimen in the Perak Museum, shot by Sir Frank Swettenham on the Larut Hills, Perak, early in 1899:—

NEMORHÆDUS SWETTENHAMI, sp. n.

General colour black, the back strongly and the sides slightly grizzled with grey, the bases of the hairs being whitish. Along the lips whitish grey; the posterior portion of the upper lips, a patch on each side of the lower jaw and one on the throat rusty red. Ears black, grizzled with rusty at the base, and lined and edged with greyish-white hairs. Mane black, mixed with whitish hairs on the fore part of the neck and with reddish hairs towards the withers. Insides of the thighs rusty red. Remainder of head, neck, chest, belly, and legs black. Tail black.

Height at shoulder $36\frac{1}{2}$ inches; from nose to root of tail over curves of body 58 inches; tail $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Length of horns 6 inches.

Named after Sir Frank Swettenham, Resident-General of the Federated Malay States, whose specimen appears to be the first ever shot by a European.

Mr. L. Wray, of the Perak Museum, has seen an adult male in the flesh, too decomposed to be preserved, but of which he kept the skeleton. I once had an opportunity of watching one in jungle for a minute or so not more than fifteen paces distant; and quite recently a kid was captured alive by coolies on the Larut Hills, having strayed into a wired-in tennis-court. All these were similar in colour to the one described, which may therefore be taken as a typical specimen of the Malayan species. The kid differed from the adult only in having a very narrow ring of rufous round the top of the hoof. This youngster Mr. Wray and I were particularly anxious to send home alive to the Society's Gardens under the charge of Mr. Keilich, of the Perak Museum, who was shortly proceeding to England, but unfortunately it died after five or six days' captivity. The specimen is now in the Museum along with the adult.

Although this Serow is so little known to Europeans the horns are occasionally obtained from the Sakai tribes of the hills, and I have notes of a dozen pairs as follows:— $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches, 8, $7\frac{1}{2}$, $7\frac{1}{4}$, $6\frac{3}{4}$, $6\frac{3}{4}$, $6\frac{1}{2}$, $6\frac{3}{8}$, $6\frac{3}{8}$, $6\frac{1}{8}$, 6, 6. Eight inches appears to be a good head.

The Malay name for this animal is "Kambing grun," *i. e.* "Cave-Goat."

It is found on the mountains of the Peninsula from 2000 ft. to 4000 ft. altitude, and is said also to occur on various isolated limestone hills of much lower elevation.

The peculiar circumstances under which Sir Frank shot his specimen were narrated in the 'Sketch' of April 26, 1899, p. 22, the article being illustrated with a photo of the mounted animal. Sir Frank was taking a photograph one afternoon when the Serow was noticed on the hill beneath him, apparently quite fascinated by the appearance of the cloth-covered camera on its tripod. It remained motionless, still gazing intently at the camera, while a rifle was sent for, when an accurate shot brought it to bag.

3. The Significance of the Hair-Slope in certain Mammals.

By WALTER KIDD, M.D., F.Z.S.

[Received March 27, 1900.]

The following observations were suggested by a study of the well-known peculiarity as to the direction in which the hairs slope on the extensor surface of the human fore-arm. In 'Nature,' vol. lv. p. 236, I drew attention to certain considerations affecting the "vestigial" character of this hair-slope, and pointed out that most hair-clad mammals, except Ungulates, present much the